

Obituary

DR. H. N. RONNING

The Reverend Doctor Halvor Nilsson Ronning died in his home at Valhalla Centre, Alberta, Canada, March 1, 1950, at the age of 87 years, 11 months and 27 days.

He was born in the parish of Bo, Telemark, Norway, March 3, 1862. He was the son of Nils Svenson Buskeronning and Kjersti Juvskaas. He was confirmed in 1876 at the age of 14. He attended a continuation school 1876-77 and Amtsskole 1877-78, and graduated from a teachers' seminary in 1880, becoming a school teacher.

In the spring of 1883 Halvor Ronning left Norway for America and studied theology at Red Wing Seminary in Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1887. He was ordained into the holy ministry the same year at the age of 25, and served congregations at Faribault, Dexter and Webster, Minn.

Pastor Ronning went to China in November, 1891, as the first pioneer missionary officially called by the Hauge Synod and the China Mission Society. On December 24th of the same year he was married to Hannah Rorem. In 1907 Mrs. Ronning died. The following year Missionary Ronning returned to America with his seven children and settled in Bardo, Alberta, Canada. He was re-married to Gunhild Horte, June 27, 1911.

In 1913, Pastor Ronning moved to the Peace River district and founded the Valhalla settlement. He organized five Lutheran congregations which he served until 1921, when he became the first evangelist of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. He made his headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn., until he retired at the age of 70 and returned to Valhalla Centre where he lived until his death.

On June 4, 1940, Evangelist Ronning was honored by St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minn., with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Dr. Ronning was preceded in death by his oldest son Nelius and is survived by his wife, Gunhild; three sons and three daughters: Chester of Nanking, China; Almah of Valhalla Centre; Talbert of Grand Forks, N.D.; Harold of Parkland, Wash.; Hazel, (Mrs. Julius Hanson) of Santa Rosa, Calif., and Victoria of Valhalla Centre; also a brother, N. N. Ronning of Faribault, Minn., and 13 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 4th, at Valhalla Lutheran Church. In the absence of Pastor Tveit who is at present on a visit to Norway, Pastor A. H. Strand officiated, assisted by Pastor Erik Haave of Sexsmith. Pastor Strand spoke on Romans 8: 33-35, "The Christian's Daring Challenge." The choir also sang two songs: "Den Himmelske Lovsang" and "Peace, Perfect Peace." Mrs. Mabel Olson sang "Abide With Me." Greetings were given by Pastor Erik Haave in behalf of Peace River Circuit of the Canada District, E.L.C. Pastor Olson of Dawson Creek, B.C., and by Bennie Velve on behalf of Valhalla Lutheran congregation, whose founder was Dr. Ronning. Mr. Velve also placed a wreath from the congregation on the coffin. Pastor Talbert Ronning spoke on behalf of the family. There were many floral tributes and memorial wreaths amounting to \$300.00, one hundred and ninety of which were for foreign missions. Greetings were read from Dr. J. A. Aasgard, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Dr. Mars A. Dale, president of Canada District; E.L.C., and from former fellow missionaries in China and many others. Hymns sung: "Jesus Lover of

My Soul," and "Now We Must Bid One Another Farewell." Mrs. Paul Loberg presided at the organ.

Pallbearers were P. Loberg, B. Velve, H. Johnson, Amund Olson, D. O. Hanson and Albert Nepstad. The church was filled to overflowing and it was a lovely sunny day. Interment was made in Valhalla cemetery.

All the children had reached home to see him and talk with him except the oldest son, Chester of Nanking, China.

—H. A. S.

DR. H. N. RONNING'S LAST MESSAGE

February 24, 1950

He spoke of God's special promises given in the Old Testament and repeated in the New Testament. It is not what you do with these promises. Receive them, in obedience then you shall be saved. Every promise carries its own assurance. "Take it down with a pencil," he said, "so you can have it for yourselves."

It is especially for those whose souls are longing and seeking. Those who do not look into God's Word and get to know it, get bewildered and do not call upon God. When you do call, you will be saved. It shall happen. I have seen it hundreds of times. There are many who do not want to call, but please do cry to God for your soul. Call aloud to Him. "Frelst ved aa tro, frelst ved aa kalle paa ham."

But there is a difference between thinking of it and actually calling to God for salvation. "Explain that," he said. He felt that so many keep thinking about these things, at least at times. The question comes: "What must I do to be saved?" And the answer comes: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." In other words, do something more than think about it. Come to Jesus with your little faith. He will never refuse to accept it, but will take it and make it grow. Come, calling to Him saying: "Lord have mercy upon me."

And one thing more: Pray, begin to pray no matter how poorly and how little. It isn't the number of words that count, but the attitude of your heart. And when you pray you shall say (speak it out loud, don't only think it), "Our Father who art in Heaven, receive my humble prayer." Speak it aloud and clearly. Then you shall be saved. This is the hope. But you have to decide it yourself. It is the sinner himself who must begin to speak to God, to call upon the Lord in order to be saved. For this is the promise, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord, shall be saved." Acts 2:21. "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7:7. "For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth." What shall you find? God, answered prayer, light. "To him that knocketh, it shall be opened." Matt. 7:8. Knock on God's door. Force yourself in. This is vital. Jesus shall open the door.

On November 16, 1949, he said: "Hurry to bring the glad tidings to a seeking soul before it is too late."

* * *

The above are some of the last statements of this soldier of the cross. Pastor Strand was at his bedside the last days took note of what he said, and sought to bring the burning message of this old saint to others. For those of us who have had contact with Doctor Ronning, we sense again in these last remarks that intense, personal, practical, approach that always characterized Doctor Ronning.

GRACE ALONE

The Fourteenth in a series of articles on Grace Alone by Dr. J. R. Lavik,
President Luther Seminary, Saskatoon.

THE NEW BIRTH

It might seem unnecessary to give much emphasis to the fact that regeneration also is by the grace of God alone. In his natural state man is dead in trespasses and sins, and it must be self-evident that a dead person cannot beget himself anew, or create within himself a new spiritual life. However, this process or reasoning may be an over-simplification.

Perhaps we should first make clear what we mean by the term regeneration. This word has been used by theologians, and also in our Lutheran confessional writings, with varying shades of meaning. It has at times been used in essentially the same sense as conversion. At other times it has been used very broadly of the entire order of salvation, or more exactly of the changes that take place in the sinner throughout the course of his personal salvation. In our Catechism, particularly in Sverdrup's Explanation to the Catechism, which has commonly been used among us in Sunday School and Confirmation class instruction, the word regeneration is used in a very specific sense, which is consistent with the teachings of Scripture and serves to give a needed emphasis to a certain phase of scriptural doctrine. The suggestion would seem to be in order here, that in the interest of clarity and to avoid confusion of thought we should in all our teaching and preaching use a consistent terminology, particularly when dealing with God's revealed way of salvation for sinners.

Let me quote the pertinent passage from Sverdrup's Explanation: "What is regeneration, or the new birth? That gracious act of God's Spirit by which He makes His abode in our hearts, renews in us God's image, and thus creates a new man of God." Accordingly, regeneration is not anything we do, for one who is dead in trespasses and sins cannot beget himself anew. It is exclusively an act of God's Spirit. How utterly gracious this act is appears from the fact that the Holy Spirit makes His abode in the sinner's heart while it is still corrupt and defiled by sin. Up to this moment the Holy Spirit has been hovering over the sinner, calling him by the Word, revealing to him sin and grace, and bringing to bear upon him the powers of prevenient grace.

Consider that while the Spirit is thus working with him the unregenerate heart is still full of the corrup-

tions of sin; there is no change there in quality of life, no change at all except this, that as in the light of the Word the sinner finds himself under the just judgment of God and utterly unable to save himself, somehow by the power of the Spirit — he does not himself understand how — he gives up his wilful resistance to the call of grace and lets God have His way with him. The Spirit has brought him to the point where in despair of himself he looks to the Savior for grace.

At that existential moment two things happen. We think and speak of them separately because we cannot think and speak of more than one thing at the time. But they belong together both in time and in reality. The one is that at this moment God blots out the sinner's guilt, that is, forgives him his sins, because he can now bring him under the cross of Christ and deal with him on the basis of the atonement. The other is, that at the moment the guilt of sin is removed through forgiveness the Holy Spirit enters the sinner's heart and makes His abode there. And where the Spirit dwells, He creates anew, He works His miracles of renewing grace. The regenerate child of God is a new creature, a living miracle of grace.

We may mention three facts which emphasize the utter graciousness of regeneration. 1) It is directly related to the atonement, the keystone in the arch of salvation by grace alone. It is the atonement that makes regeneration possible. 2) The Holy Spirit enters the sinner's heart while it is still full of the corruptions of sin. If we give some thought to this we will realize that it is a stupendous manifestation of divine and unmerited love. 3) The creation of the new life in the sinner is the work of the Holy Spirit alone, without any assistance or co-operation on the part of man; it is completely a work of grace.

PENSIONS

This is the fifth department of our church to receive a share of the Lenten Offering. Ten per cent of our Mission and Benevolence offering goes to Pensions.

Just as it is the responsibility of a husband and father to provide for his family, we believe it is the responsibility of the church to provide for the servants of God whose day of full time service has ended. Only a few congregations could provide for the adequate retirement of their pastor, and rarely does a pastor spend a lifetime in one congregation. But what we cannot do individually, we can do together. Through the department of pensions retirement is provided for pastors, missionaries and church workers, and help is given to their widows and orphans.

It would be fine if the church could provide a fully adequate pension. So far it hasn't been possible. The basic minimum pension at present is \$300 a year, not for each person, but for the family. This is what our pension gift is used for. It is not much to ask. We all know it should be more; it would be more; if we all gave more.

As we give our Lenten Offering, let us also think of pensions, and the help extended in this way to so many veterans of the Cross and their widows.

—G. E. M.



May this, his last message, also bring someone to the Cross for pardon.

—V.

The Shepherd

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WITNESSING

There are several marks, or highlights of power in the Apostolic Church. It is significant that although the disciples had been with Jesus three years, seen His mighty miracles, and had heard His powerful sermons, yes had even witnessed His death, resurrection and ascension — still they were not ready to preach! They must still tarry. They must still wait unto that great moment when the Holy Spirit in all its fullness would sweep into their souls and endue them with power, supernatural heavenly power that would anoint their lips so that they could speak that the dead might hear! We are living in the days of that available power. When one reads the moving, energizing, and inspiring story of the early church, it is with the realization that thus would the Holy Spirit energize the Church of today! The power in the early church was given for one thing — that they might be witnesses.

Another factor that spells the reason for the rapid spread of the Gospel in the early church is mentioned in the eighth chapter of the Book of Acts. After the persecution unto death of Stephen, the church was scattered abroad. The apostles were left in Jerusalem, but the lay workers were scattered as firebrands throughout the country round about. And they kindled fires. The reason? Every Christian a Spirit filled witness!

So should it be today — every Christian a witness, a spirit filled witness! When one realizes how many confessing Christians we have in our congregations, and think of the power that is available for the weakest Christian — we need to pray that the Lord will make everyone that loves His name a witness to others. What a surge of power that would be!

God does not ask for famous people; but He asks for people who are willing to be His witnesses. It should also be remembered that God can use all gifts when they are consecrated unto Him. Let us pray that it may be true of our church also that "every Christian is a witness."



A TRIBUTE

In the death of H. N. Ronning, Canada District and the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church has lost an impressive and influential servant. He has filled a large place in the life of our church. As pastor, missionary, evangelist and colonizer, he has, under God, forged new paths. As a humble soul winner, he was used mightily of God to bring sinners to take their place beneath the Cross of Jesus. It is with grateful hearts to God we keep him in loving memory.

Our prayers go out on behalf of his loved ones.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CHURCH

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of Canada will hold its annual meeting in Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on June 24, 1950. The matter of change of name of the church, and the Articles of Incorporation shall be presented for due consideration.

J. T. Dahle, Secretary.

LET'S TALK IT OVER

By O. Gornitzka

Question: "I don't feel deep enough sorrow over sin. If one has been lifted from the mire of sin, is it not better to spend time thinking of the release rather than the wretchedness of one's former condition?"

Answer: It is God who "grants repentance." It cannot be produced by morbidly brooding over past sins that God has once and for all forgiven. That does not mean that one is to forget the wretched state out of which God saved him. Read II Peter 1:9. There is a challenge in "remembering" the Egypt out of which one was led by the mighty hand of God. It is an incentive to a life of diligence whereby one makes his calling and election sure. It guards one from the danger of carnal security. But as far as our standing with God is concerned it is out of the picture. It has been cast into the depth of the sea. What then about repentance in one's daily life? That is wrought in the believer's heart as he through the Word is being searched, not by himself, but by God. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Ps. 139:23-24). If that is done, God will grant repentance. And the attitude of repentance will be deeper with the years as we come to a fuller self-knowledge. But always remember: Repentance is not "our work" that merits anything from God but God's gracious gift.

Question: "The Lord's Supper does not mean as much to me as I think it should. I don't receive it as joyfully as I ought. Is there a wrong relationship to the body and blood because of the daily presence I know from His Spirit?"

Answer: In the first place the body and blood of Jesus is not anything apart from Jesus Himself and the presence I know from His Spirit. Let us guard against making "things" out of His "means of grace." We are not dealing with impersonal "things" but with the living Christ Himself. Thus, whenever I partake of the body and the blood I partake in the glorified Christ Himself, the same is ever indwelling me by His Holy Spirit, the blessed Comforter. Possibly the trouble lies in a wrong slant on this precious gift. Has it degenerated into a routine transaction of self-examination and forgiveness, with the preciousness of communion with a living Christ who so loved me that He gave His very blood that I might be His own sweet fellowship and communion with fellow believers with whom we have been made one bread, one body because we partake of the one bread? And have forgotten the prophetic aspect of this fellowship: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come." Study I Cor. 10:16-17 and 11:23-26.

Question: "Are long prayers necessary if one lives in close communion with the Father? Isn't the whole day a prayer-lived one for a Christian? If He knows my need and I know the faithfulness and constancy of His supply, where does 'praying through' enter?"

Answer: No, long prayers are not necessary, that is, just to be long prayers as prayed by the Pharisees. In fact, Jesus warns against such in Matt. 6:7. Jesus calls them "vain repetitions." He states that "Your Father knoweth what things you have need of, before ye ask him." But there are other considerations as far as the

length of prayer is concerned. Jesus Himself would at times spend "all night" in prayer, and that was not because His whole day was not prayer-lived. In the first place, prayer is not an "automat" where we put in ten cents and get a sandwich. Prayer is communion with God. In our prayer for our needs our own inner life is moulded by the Spirit to be true recipients of these gifts. At times it may take much time for the Spirit to do His work. To "pray through" does not mean that we must pray so long as to break down resistance in God but that God may break down barriers in us. Then there is the "intercessory" aspect of our prayers. Some Christians have much to talk over with the Lord. Not vain repetitions but earnest transactions. That must have been behind the much time Jesus spent with His Father as again and again He withdrew from the crowd to be alone with the Father. Our needs and the needs of others are the promptings the Father uses to draw us into the "inner chamber."

Obituaries

Andrew Kvigstad

Andrew Kvigstad was born in West Toten, Norway, on June 13, 1859. In 1878 he married Carrie Bors-Dotter and emigrated to Dalton, Minnesota in 1886 where they farmed until 1910. In that year they moved to Canada and homesteaded near Cairns, Alberta. In 1920 he and his family moved to Bawlf, Alberta where he engaged in shoe repairing business for the next eight years. In 1928 he and his wife moved to Metiskow, Alberta where he made his home ever since. His wife died in Metiskow in 1939. He passed away at the home of his son John in Metiskow on February 18, 1950, at the age of 90 years, eight months and five days.

He leaves to mourn his passing, six children: Annie (Mrs. Quale) in Sebeka, Minnesota; Ida (Mrs. Botting) in Heinsburg, Alberta; Anton Kvigstad in Clandonald, Alberta; John Kvigstad; Bertha (Mrs. Robert Johnson), and Sina (Mrs. Hans Hanson), all of Metiskow; and 52 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Officiating pastor was Rev. Dr. H. T. Egedahl of Sedgewick, Alberta. Interment was made in Metiskow cemetery.

* * *

Lauritz Moldeseter

Lauritz Moldeseter passed away February 14 at East End, Saskatchewan. He was born July 27, 1881, in Skjold parish, Norway. He was a devout and meek Christian. He was buried at East End cemetery February 18, Pastor Soren Fengstad officiating. Pastor Sorenson also spoke at the church.

He is survived by one brother, Mads Moldeseter and three sisters, Mrs. Marta Olson, Mrs. Brita Langeland, and Mrs. Ingeborg Flatnes in Norway. One niece Kari Askeland who for many years was his housekeeper, resides at East End. Another niece, Klara Tofte lives at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

—S. F.

Mrs. Marie Frederickson
New Westminster, B.C.

In tribute to a fine old lady a number of friends and relatives gathered at 681 Government Road, the home of her son and daughter, on February 22nd to honor Mrs. Marie Frederickson on her 90th birthday. A host of friends had sent letters, telegrams and parcels from all over Canada and in the States and from Norway. Mrs. Frederickson even at this age still keeps up letters to a great number of friends and relatives. Perhaps one of Grandma's greatest treasures is a devotional book by Bishop Lunde, Sondagbog for Gamle. The warm, sunny afternoon was spent in quiet pleasant

ries of the long past and present and toward evening when the men folks came from work, a festive meal with many friends.

Those present for the occasion, besides her son John, and her daughter, Mrs. Milne, with whom she lives, were Pastor and Mrs. Josef Haave, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hage and children, Mr. and Mrs. Jobb and son, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. Mrs. Frederickson would like through the medium of The Shepherd, to greet her many friends in this her 90th year that God may bless them with eternal blessings through Christ her Saviour. Even with a magnifying glass Mrs. Frederickson is an ardent reader of our Canadian church paper. God bless you and keep you, dear friend of many friends.

THE REVIVAL IN LOS ANGELES

Many who read the sensational reports of the revival meetings in Los Angeles conducted by Billy Graham, president of Northwestern Bible School, Minneapolis, wondered what had really taken place in that great city.

Below is a testimony of Rev. Theodore B. Hax, pastor of the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Los Angeles (ALC), published in "Evangelize."

The Billy Graham meetings in Los Angeles this autumn attracted nationwide attention. A thousand churches in the Los Angeles area co-operated. A huge circus tent with a seating capacity of 6,500 was packed night after night, and sometimes the crowds were estimated as high as 10,000 or 12,000. Good gospel music and spirit-filled preaching of the Word of God were the only attractions and over the period of eight weeks thousands came to the prayer-tent seeking salvation. Among them were some sensational conversions. The Los Angeles newspapers gave front page space to the testimonies of a converted gangster, a radio star and a nationally known athlete. It is said, also, that several movie actors were among those converted. Dr. William (Billy) Graham, aged 31, is an anointed evangelist. His humility in the face of overwhelming publicity is inspiring.

We feel that the success of the Billy Graham meetings may be traced to the prayers of many Bible-believing Christians. Perhaps it would be unfair to single out any particular group, but we know of a prayer group of ministers from many denominations which began monthly all-day prayer meetings about ten years ago and continue to the present. We have attended some of these prayer meetings and the burden has been for spiritual revival for this wicked city. When God's people get to the place where they are willing to pray earnestly, persistently and unitedly, God shows Himself just as willing as ever to open the windows of heaven.

Plans for this coming spring are being made to follow up the Billy Graham meetings with another united evangelistic effort on a large scale. Meanwhile the co-operating churches are being encouraged to follow up the new converts. It is hoped that the spirit of evangelism and revival will yet sweep the country during this present time of tranquility, which may be the calm before the storm. Let God's people everywhere be encouraged to pray for America and the world. It is either revival or ruin. It is either a return to Christ or chaos.

—Pastor Theodore B. Hax.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

Lad of sixteen used to running power machinery, wants work on farm. Thomas Daakenson, Chrichton, Sask.

* * *

WANTED

A good reliable Lutheran mechanic to work in a garage and implement shop. Must have a thorough knowledge of diesel engines as well as other types of internal combustion engines. Lutheran community. Apply to Carl Johnson, Margo, Sask.

Resettlement Trip to Eastern Canada

RESETTLEMENT TRIP TO EASTERN CANADA

This is the balance of the account of Dr. Mars A. Dale's trip to Eastern Canada in connection with resettlement. The first instalment of the account appeared in last issue.

VISITING THE SICK

From the detention quarters we went to the detention hospital. Here were several young men who had contracted T.B. One was Polish and as Miss Petersons stood talking to him he wept because he had received notice he was to be deported and all he asked was that he could live. We realized then that Miss Petersons was certainly God-sent, and as she stood there we were thankful that she could thus stand, in the name of the Church, and minister in this foreign language to those who so sorely needed her. The other men could speak English and we found that they were separated from their wives, either because the wives were elsewhere in Canada, or else left behind in the old country. We just couldn't help but feel the loneliness in such hearts. Illness is loneliness in itself, but when it separates from loved ones entirely, it is almost impossible to endure. We left that place with heavy hearts as we walked out into the fog that hung over the ocean waters that were splashing against the shore close to the hospital.

We went from there to the home of Pastor Conrad, who has been doing a noble work among the DP's, and then to see where Miss Petersons lived with her mother and another Latvian girl, one Elsie. Miss Petersons' father had also lived with them in these two rooms until recently, when he had died.

It was not long after the visit at Petersons that we again met Pastor Bald and he, together with Whitteker, left for home. The "Bishop" said he only had to preach four times the next day.

DEEPER INSIGHTS

Saturday evening was spent with Miss Petersons. It was during this conversation that I received the greatest insight into the flight into Germany, and the fleeing from one camp to another until finally she was employed by UNNRA and then by IRO, and finally of the wonderful joy of coming to a free country. Then she related some of her experiences in helping her fellow countrymen over here. She gathers all of those who have settled in Halifax. Their gathering place is the Y.W.C.A., each Thursday evening. There she discusses with the Latvians their problems, problems of every nature you can be sure. As we closed our three hour conference we bowed heads in prayer, seeking God's guidance on all that she does and says, and imploring Him to bless every effort put forth in behalf of a people that is lost in another country and of a people even lost in its own country. Then, as we shook hands and said farewell, she said she was going to more and more bear testimony to her people of the love of Christ that lived in her heart.

RETURN TRIP BEGINS

Trains had been running so late that I was warned I would not be able to make connections in Montreal so as to make my appointment in Kitchener. I, therefore, decided to fly to the Dominion's chief city in the east. As the plane lifted over the harbor and then swung back over the mainland at high noon Sunday, I breathed a word of thanksgiving that our Resettlement Committee in Eastern Canada had used enough foresight to get such efficient help in aiding these immigrants in getting their bearings in a country entirely strange to them.

Late afternoon brought me into Montreal. It was fortunate I came in just as we, who were on the plane, were informed that all flights had been cancelled because of gale-proportion winds.

A VISIT AT A MONTREAL CHURCH

Soon after coming into Montreal I called Pastor Beck of the U.E.L.C. and asked what time services were being held in the evening. Information was given and I went out to kneel with his parishioners at the Lord's table that evening. After the services many were invited up to the Beck apartment for refreshments. Here I met several nurses and others who had just recently come from Denmark. They told me their assignment was only for a year, or two, at the most but they certainly were going to make it longer, so well did they like Canada.

A DAY WITH DR. REBLE

In late evening I walked to the station and there boarded my train for Toronto. Only enough time was allowed in this great city so that we could walk from one train to another. By the time my watch read 10:15 I was in Kitchener and there met by Dr. Reble, the vice-president of our Canada Committee. The day was spent in conference. Every phase of our L.W.F. work was discussed. By day's end many suggested recommendations had been formulated and the executive committee will soon act on them. A sumptuous meal was enjoyed at noon, at the Reble home. The evening meal was eaten at Overgaard's, one of the young E.L.C. men who is teaching at Waterloo College. In the evening Dr. Reble and I met with Pastor Eydt in regard to resettlement and the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches in Canada next summer. The two men then took me over to Dr. Schneider's where a cup of tea was enjoyed before their taking me to Galt to catch my train for the States.

GRATITUDE

I arrived in Minneapolis on Tuesday evening with gratitude to the Canada Committee for sending me on this visitation tour. Even greater was my gratitude to God that He had led us into this great work of ministering both physically and spiritually to these people — people who having found that arm of help and protection in L.W.F. were now themselves grateful to God for all blessings bestowed.

—Mars A. Dale.

"YE SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD"

Isaiah 7:10-15
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lent is drawing to a close. Soon we will enter the Passion Week with its many contrasts and conflicts! In a world in which man is so much driven by self, it is refreshing to again behold the selfless sacrifice of Him, Christ, who in life, in prayer, in everything was so emptied of self that He knew of only one course to take, namely: "Not my will, but Thine be done." Jesus maintained this position in everything: "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God . . . thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

But how grievously, and in so many ways, man has tempted the Lord! Ahaz seems to have excelled in this, particularly after becoming King of Judah. His life and rule are summed up thus: "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord!" Few lives have been checkered with such out-right rebellion to God as that of Ahaz! The King of the North and the King of Syria were now coming against him, to conquer Jerusalem, and to forever extinguish the line of David, and Ahaz was shaken with fear. (Is. 7:2). Twice God sent Isaiah who earnestly sought to get Ahaz to do God's will in the matter. Isaiah warned him that no earthly power would ever be able to contend with God and be able to wipe out the line of David through whom God had

foreordained that the Saviour should come. (Is. 7:13-14). He told how God was ready to offer him any sign which he would ask to assure him of His presence and power! All this, but Ahaz had already decided the course he was going to take. Trusting in his already arranged alliance with Assyria, Ahaz sinned not only in that he refused to heed Isaiah's message and warning, but he sinned most outrageously by his pretended piety, as feigning absolute trust in God and extreme godliness, he states that it would be below his dignity to in any way mistrust God and tempt Him by asking for a sign! Such pretense! Such hypocrisy, as having already determined to go his own way, he puts on this outward show of real godliness! How such a course of hypocrisy proved to be a stench in the nostrils of God, resulting in the terrible judgment of which Isaiah speaks whereby the land was shaven as it were by a fine razor (Is. 7:20), completely subjugated by Assyria.

However, is his an isolated case of tempting the Lord? When it comes to this freedom: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve," is not history and our own lives dotted by self-will? How tragically man fumbles when it comes to doing God's will! God created man a self-conscious, self-determining agent, with the freedom of alternative choice, something which God has already respected in man. We know so well how man met the first trial of this freedom, the clash that ensued of his will ever against God's will, as Adam then, and the natural man since has tended to go his own way, to live according to his own will! My friend, it takes real "begotten again" men and women to do God's will, to deny self, to take up the Cross and follow Him! The way of self has always been the path of least resistance! From the greatest and most fundamental choice of life, as from the Old Testament we hear: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve," and the New Testament's challenge, "What then shall I do with Jesus?" We see how tragically the natural man fumbles and falls! Yet this choice flavors and determines with what ease, or difficulty, all other choices of life are made! For this reason the Spirit of God, through the Word, is constantly at work to get us (as Isaiah pleading with Ahaz) to turn from self and the alliances of the world, and look only to God! Yes, how patiently, and with what long suffering God has dealt with us! But, "He will not always chide; neither will He keep His anger forever." To follow the course of self-will, that which Ahaz took, and especially when cloaked in pretense, hypocrisy, feigned godliness certainly tempts, tries and stretches the patience of God! My friend, have you permitted the Spirit, who has been pleading with you, to lay yourself (your soul, your life, your all) upon the altar of God's will, and in everything with Jesus pray: "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done." Anything short of this is to tempt the Lord your God!

"Oh God forgive the 'muchness of self' and the 'littleness of Thee' in my life." Amen!

—R. O. O.

District News

The Southern Alberta Circuit convention will be held at Bow Island, Mr. Henry Holte, lay pastor, March 31, April 2nd. Opening service, Friday at 2.00 p.m. Theme, "Come Learn of Me." Text Matt. 11:28-30. Pastor Sterling Johnson of Ryley will be the guest speaker.

The parsonage at Claresholm has been renovated. Painting and paper-hanging has been done.

Central Lutheran of Edmonton has attained a membership of exactly 400.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY



MISS OLGA GUTTORMSON

our Canadian missionary to South Africa, is home on furlough. She will, under the direction of the Women's Missionary Federation, seek to visit each circuit.

The building fund shows steady growth.

The basement of Trinity Lutheran Church at Torquay is being improved. Mr. S. Knutson and Mr. Ed. Ulledal are doing the work.

A new basement is being planned for Trinity Church of the Viking parish.

Student Arnold Hagen has accepted the call to become the pastor of Prince Albert Lutheran Church. He will begin his pastorate immediately after his ordination.

Pastor Strand will be leaving our District the latter part of March and hopes to reach Cordova, Alaska by Easter to take up his work there.

An excellent Spanish teacher at Edmonton, former missionary to South America, has offered her services gratis in teaching weekly classes in Spanish at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute at Camrose. At the Fellowship Week and the Foreign Mission Emphasis Week several students have sensed the call of the Lord to the foreign fields. About a dozen students have registered for the course.

Evangelist Nels Peterson of Minneapolis is conducting a series of meetings at Camrose Lutheran Church. He will spend at least two weeks there.

A group of students at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute will conduct a tour of Southern Alberta after the close of the school year, it is planned. Pastor A. M. Vinge will travel with the group. About thirty students are attending the school during the spring term also. The total attendance has reached the highest point for many years.

Miss Inga Kjos, missionary candidate for Bolivia, is at present teaching some classes at C.L.B.I. and is assisting in some parish work in Camrose Lutheran congregation. She is a graduate of L.B.I., Minneapolis. The last year she took the special Mission Course at that institution. Students of C.L.B.I. have organized a mission group and are meeting for regular prayer. They are also building up a mission library at the school. There is a surge of mission interest evident, and the Lord is answering prayer for keeping that kindled flame alive.

PRAYER SERVICE

The later part of February families representing the South Immanuel Lutheran Church gathered in Boule Creek school for a World Day of Prayer service. This is the first time such an event was held in this district although this type of service was started in 1927. The offering amounted to \$6.50 and six parcels given which are a light for a lamp of love in Europe.

—Mrs. H. Haakenson.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

MRS. E. M. BERGH, Camrose, Alberta, W.M.F. Editor.

Deadline for material to W.M.F. Editor the 2nd of each month

"WHY STAND YE HERE ALL THE DAY IDLE?"

Matthew 20:6)

Doubtless Jesus would have good reason to ask many of us the same question: "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" We should have no reason to answer: "Because no man hath hired us." God has hired us. He received us into His Kingdom by Baptism in early infancy. When we grew up, He said: "You must live by faith in me, and in constant warfare against evil! They stand in the market place idle. They throw their lives away in trivialities.

Jesus looks at us today. He knows our lives. Therefore He says to each one of us: "Why do you stand idle?" First of all, He asks this question of those who have neglected to fight against evil. He asks the question in sorrow but also in love. He says "If only you would turn to God today and seek communion with Him!" He waits to receive you. He would have you a laborer in His vineyard.

Then He speaks to those who have not forgotten God, those who have begun the warfare against evil. There is much in their lives also which does not harmonize with the life in God. There are thoughts which do not articulate with God's thoughts. There are deeds which do not accord with the will of God. There are faults of character, such as backbiting, self-conceit, arrogance, and the like. These sins are permitted to rule the heart, and the war against sin has not even started.

Therefore Jesus says: "Stand no longer idle. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling!" He who thus addresses you will also furnish you the strength to do His bidding. He will show you how and where to begin the work.

—Mrs. E. M. Bergh.

REPORT OF CANADA DISTRICT W.M.F. BOARD MEETING

The Canada District W.M.F. Board held its annual meeting at Luther Seminary, Saskatoon, on January 4 and 5. Those present included three district officers, two department secretaries, and three circuit presidents. Dr. Dale conducted the opening devotions reading from Matt. 28. He gave us much encouragement in our work and recommended that our Board meet each year at the time of Seminary convocation.

It was reported that from the sale of W.M.F. cookbooks about \$1,200 has been realized which go toward the cost of building the house for the District president of our church. There is still half a barrel of cookbooks on hand.

Mrs. Storaasli, in her report on radio work told us that seven W.M.F. broadcasts had been given in the district this past year. These were of the transcribed "March of Truth" series. She recommended that our W.M.F. broadcasts be by the women themselves and said that she would soon be sending a letter to the Circuit presidents concerning broadcast work.

Discussion followed on what should be included in the president's monthly news letter and what this letter should be called. Some good suggestions would be appreciated.

Just after the afternoon session had started the photographer from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix came to take our picture which appeared in the next day's edition and was also seen in last month's Shepherd. The problems of the higher education department and of the circuit presidents were discussed at this session. It was decided that the president should contact Miss Olga Gutormson who is home from the mission field in South Africa to see if she could visit the spring W.M.F. Circuit conventions.

Mrs. S. T. Jacobson, Mrs. O. Likness and Mrs. Morstad were chosen to act as a committee to pick a theme for the circuit conventions.

Pastor J. B. Stolee came in to give a brief report on the progress made on the house being built for the District president of the church. The total cost will be about \$13,000 and the house is well on the way to completion. The proceeds from the sale of the W.M.F. cookbooks make up the first donation given specifically for the building of this residence.

At 3.30 the meeting adjourned and the members crowded into one large taxi which took them to Zion Lutheran Church where they joined the local W.M.F. society for coffee at their regular meeting.

Next morning we met again at 10 a.m. at the seminary. The following recommendations were drawn up:

1. That our annual meeting of the W.M.F. District board be held each year at Luther Seminary, Saskatoon, during the Seminary Convocation.

2. That the \$5.00 fee for each local be sent to the Circuit treasurer at the beginning of the year.

3. That we try to have twelve W.M.F. radio broadcasts in the District during the year and that circuits and individuals contribute to the District Radio Fund.

4. That as W.M.F. members we give all possible moral support to the cause of temperance and that society have one temperance program during the year.

5. That as individual W.M.F. members we make use of the Unified Bible Reading Program for 1950.

6. That we encourage getting one representative from each parish to the General Convention in Minneapolis in June. (Each society is entitled to one representative.)

7. That we encourage our members to share in the daily W.M.F. prayer hour at 9.00 a.m.

It was decided that the president should order the Daily Bible Reading programs and send them out to the locals.

At the Thursday afternoon session the theme committee reported. Their choice was the theme "Build With God", using I Cor. 3:9 as a text. The three sub-topics suggested were:

"Bought to be Builders."

"Prepared to be Builders."

"Working as Builders."

This theme was adopted for use at the Circuit conventions.

It was decided that a first vice-president should be appointed to take Mrs. Pederson's place. Mrs. S. Brun of Strongfield, Sask. was the first choice. And since the meeting we have learned that she has accepted the position.

Though the attendance had been far from complete, we felt our meeting had been very worthwhile and that the Lord had been with us. We were grateful for the warm hospitality shown us at the seminary and for the gracious help and advice of Mrs. Lavik who had been invited to attend in an advisory capacity.

We hope that when the board meets next January many more of the members will be able to attend.

Mrs. G. E. Morstad,

Secretary Canada District W.M.F.

HOME MISSIONS

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. "Let us go into the next towns that I may preach there, also, for therefore came I forth." Mark 1:3-8.

March is the month in which Home Missions is stressed in our Women's Missionary Federation. As District secretary for the Mission Band department, I am making an appeal for the distribution of mission boxes in your ladies' aids. May we, in 1950,

find "A Mission Box in Every Home." We must pray and urge the women to use these boxes daily. If we keep our Mission Boxes within sight, they will be constant reminders of the work we have to do. Through these each woman can contribute to the work of spreading the gospel in all the world.

On the Home Mission Field we find consecrated workers in Alaska among the seamen, the deaf and the blind, the Indians, and in mission churches. We have our Christian institutions. They are all gathering souls into God's Kingdom. They need our prayers and gifts. With an estimated 78 million unchurched in America there is truly a field for work.

What can we do? We can witness by our lives that we are Christ's, invite someone to church, see to it that children are in Sunday School, encourage a weaker brother, remember the institutions with prayers and gifts.

To date seven circuit mission secretaries have reported a total of \$1,591.59 from the remaining circuits even though it is late.

May God richly bless this department of our W.M.F.

—Mrs. T. K. Tomtene,
Canada District W.M.F.
Mission Secretary.

SMORGAASBORD AT ZION CHURCH, SASKATOON

A large and enthusiastic number of members and interested friends patronized the smorgaasbord supper served at Zion Lutheran Church. As the guests entered the dining hall attention was immediately attracted to the long three-tiered service table, artistically decorated in pastel shades of green and rose, highlighted by flowers and lighted tapers.

On this table from which guests were served cafeteria style according to smorgaasbord custom, the array of food ranged from sweet soup and hot dishes to a great variety of cold meats, fish, cheese, salads, breads, rolls, cookies, cakes, and tarts. Many were definitely Scandinavian delicacies.

In charge of the serving were Mrs. M. Dahlen and Mrs. W. McLean, and the waitresses wore crisp white aprons and head bands. Mr. Fred Veraas efficiently acted as chef for the occasion. Assisting Mrs. J. R. Lavik in receiving the guests were Mesdames A. Gronlid, A. F. Nelson, L. Melsness and O. Storaasli.

Enthusiastic remarks showed the evening was enjoyed by all.

ATTENTION, W.M.F. BOARD MEMBERS

W.M.F. stationery is now available and any member of the District Board may receive a supply from the secretary by stating how much she can use. Address requests to Mrs. G. E. Morstad, 202 8th Street West, Calgary, Alberta.

"MORBUS SABBATICUS"

This is the time of the year when a disease known as "Morbus Sabbaticus" often makes great inroads, not the least in a city congregation. The symptoms may be noted toward the end of the week, usually on Saturday. In contrast with other diseases which ordinarily take the sufferer to bed, "Morbus Sabbaticus" is characterized by a strange rejuvenation and restlessness. The victim may, for instance, suddenly develop an irrational attachment to his fishing rod and tackle

THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for articles and news that have been sent in for the W.M.F. column. May we hear from more.

Mrs. E. M. Bergh,
Box 91
Camrose, Alberta.

box. Although his better judgment tells him that the fish he may catch — conditions being favorable — will cost him at least ten times more in both money and energy than if he bought them at the store in the next block, he will cheerfully leave both home and family and drive out to some far-away lake for the weekend. The reader will readily recall how other non-profitable activities, too, absorb large numbers of sufferers from this mysterious virus.

Fortunately, "Morbus Sabbaticus" has never proved physically fatal, except when cars smash or boats overturn. Such occurrences, however, are incidental to, and not component parts of, the sickness itself. Moreover, the attack, whether chronic or acute, usually subsides Sunday afternoon or evening at the latest. But while it lasts, the victim finds it extremely difficult, not to say impossible, to attend Sunday morning services at his own church. This must be considered one of the most deplorable by-products of the weekend disease known as "Morbus Sabbaticus."

No reliable cure has yet been found. It can only be urged upon the members of the congregation to take every possible and reasonable care so that the disease may not assume the proportions of a general epidemic, and thus leave the House of God standing practically empty on the Lord's Day.

—Lutheran Herald.

HOW ARE THINGS AT HOME?

It is such a question that Nehemiah asked of friends who came to visit him. When he heard that things were in bad shape back home, he sat down and wept, and mourned for a number of days, and fasted and prayed before God.

How are things in your home community? What prevails there, godliness or ungodliness? Who has the most subjects, the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of light? Are you disturbed like Nehemiah that Satan is winning victories?

How are things in your home congregation? Is there a love for, and a steadfastness in, Biblical truths? Are the members heavenly-minded or worldly-minded? Are the members selfish or selfless in the use of their material possessions? Are they a source of inspiration or of discouragement to your pastor? How many are ambassadors for Christ, pleading on His behalf, "Be ye reconciled to God?"

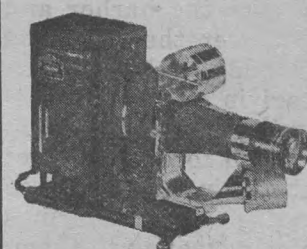
How is it in your home? Is the motto "Christ is the head of this home" confirmed by the lives of the members? Does your presence in your home make it easier or harder for others in it to walk with Jesus?

It may be that all is well in your home community, home congregation, home. Thank God if such is the case. But if not, pray God that the same concern that Nehemiah felt for those "back home" may grip your heart, too.

—G. O. Evenson.

W.M.F. COOK BOOK

Are you looking for a birthday or "shower" gift? Why not give a W.M.F. Cook Book? There are still some to be had, and we urge you all to order your supply NOW. Price is one dollar. Send your order to Miss Clara Haugen, 212 Wiggins Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask.



One picture is worth a 1,000 words

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